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Top Philly spots for St. Patrick's Day. 4-5

Find out which drink you should toast with on St. Patrick's Day from Ireland's baddest, former UFC champion Conor McGregor. 2

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A toast to *St. Patrick's Day* with Conor McGregor

The UFC superstar talks whiskey, business and more ahead of the holiday. **MATT JUUL**

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner, and who better to celebrate with than Irish fighting phenom Conor McGregor. While the former two-division UFC champion has been on a bit of a break from the Octagon in recent months, that hasn't stopped him from taking over the whiskey game with his brand Proper No. Twelve. Ahead of this weekend's holiday, we caught up with McGregor to chat about his growing whiskey business, how he likes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and more.

After so much success in and outside of the Octagon, why did starting a whiskey brand feel like the right move for you?
The decision to make my own Irish whiskey was very natural, almost inevitable. I've always loved Irish whiskey — I'm a true Irishman after all. My grandfather, god rest his soul, played a huge role in my taste for Irish whiskey. He always told me about his love for it, even when I was too young to have some. He would be proud of my Irish whiskey, Proper No. Twelve.

Over the years, I've been approached by many Irish whiskey brands asking me to endorse their product. I have nothing against endorsement deals; I have several with brands and products I believe in, that is no secret. However, Irish whiskey was always different for me. I wanted to create something that will still be here generations from now. Whiskey is timeless and we Irish make the best whiskey there is.

I think we expected creating our own Irish whiskey to be a little easier than it was. It turned into a long, complicated project, but I wasn't going to rush the process. We all know I thrive on a challenge and on hard work. I found the best in the business; the oldest distillery on the isle of Ireland with a proven history of whiskey-making. I met my master distiller, previously at Guinness, and together we went through painstaking measures to create the Proper No. Twelve blend.

I love Ireland, its land and its people. I was born here, will raise my children here, and I will die here. I wanted to make a proper Irish whiskey — something that would make my people proud.

Fans have fallen in love with the Proper brand already. Were you surprised by how fast it's grown in such a short amount of time?
The reaction to Proper No. Twelve has been energizing. We have reached unprecedented new heights with this liquid gold. Hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world have been reaching out asking where they can purchase a bottle.

The feedback we've received on our liquid and brand has been outstanding, and the support from people around the world has made me proud and has been incredibly humbling.

At launch, I told everyone I was going to give this my all and take the whiskey market by storm, and we did just that, with more to come. I expected Proper No. Twelve to be well received because it is a proper Irish whiskey and it is very reasonably priced. It is a blend of grain and the finest single malt Ireland has to offer. The taste is full-flavored, smooth and approachable. So was I surprised? No. But did I expect to sell six months' worth of product in 10 days? Did I expect to sell out? Of course I did! You know you are doing well when your competition is reacting to you, doing all they can to slow you down and spending piles of cash targeting your brand on social media. We have not spent any money forcing the brand. It has all been organic, real and magical. We are the most-followed wine and spirit brand on social media in the world already.

We will make millions of bottles just in our first year and I am proud of that. We will be in multiple countries in our first year as well, which is something others said could not be done. Don't doubt the Champ Champ.

How do you like to celebrate St. Patrick's Day these days (aside from sipping on Proper)?
I like to take a moment and stop and have a toast and say thank you to first responders. They are real heroes and I feel proud and lucky that we can support local first responders with sales from Proper No. Twelve.

How has fighting helped you in the world of business and growing a brand like Proper?
I always apply the lessons I've learned throughout my life to whatever the current project at hand is, so MMA and Proper No. Twelve is no different.

A strong work ethic, the desire to learn and holding yourself accountable will get you far. It would've been easy to just sign an endorsement deal or have someone else do all of the hard work, the tastings, etc., and just give me an overview. But that's not how I do things. Throughout the development process I was in training, I was fighting, I had a kid. I'm a perfectionist, I don't do anything half-assed. I wasn't going to sacrifice the quality or taste of Proper No. Twelve to check it off the bucket list — this project means way more to me than that. Proper No. Twelve is who I am, and although I was anxious at times to just launch it — I couldn't wait to share it with the world — I'm so glad I took the time, put in the hard work, have the best team in the business, and launched it properly.

Everyone wants to know when we'll see you back in the Octagon. Should we expect to see you back at some point this year?
Right now, I'm focused on my training to get back into the Octagon. I can't tell you when that will be, but I can tell you I am ready.

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The luck of the *Irish*

Top Philly spots are throwing down Irish style for St. Patrick's Day **MOLLY GIVEN**

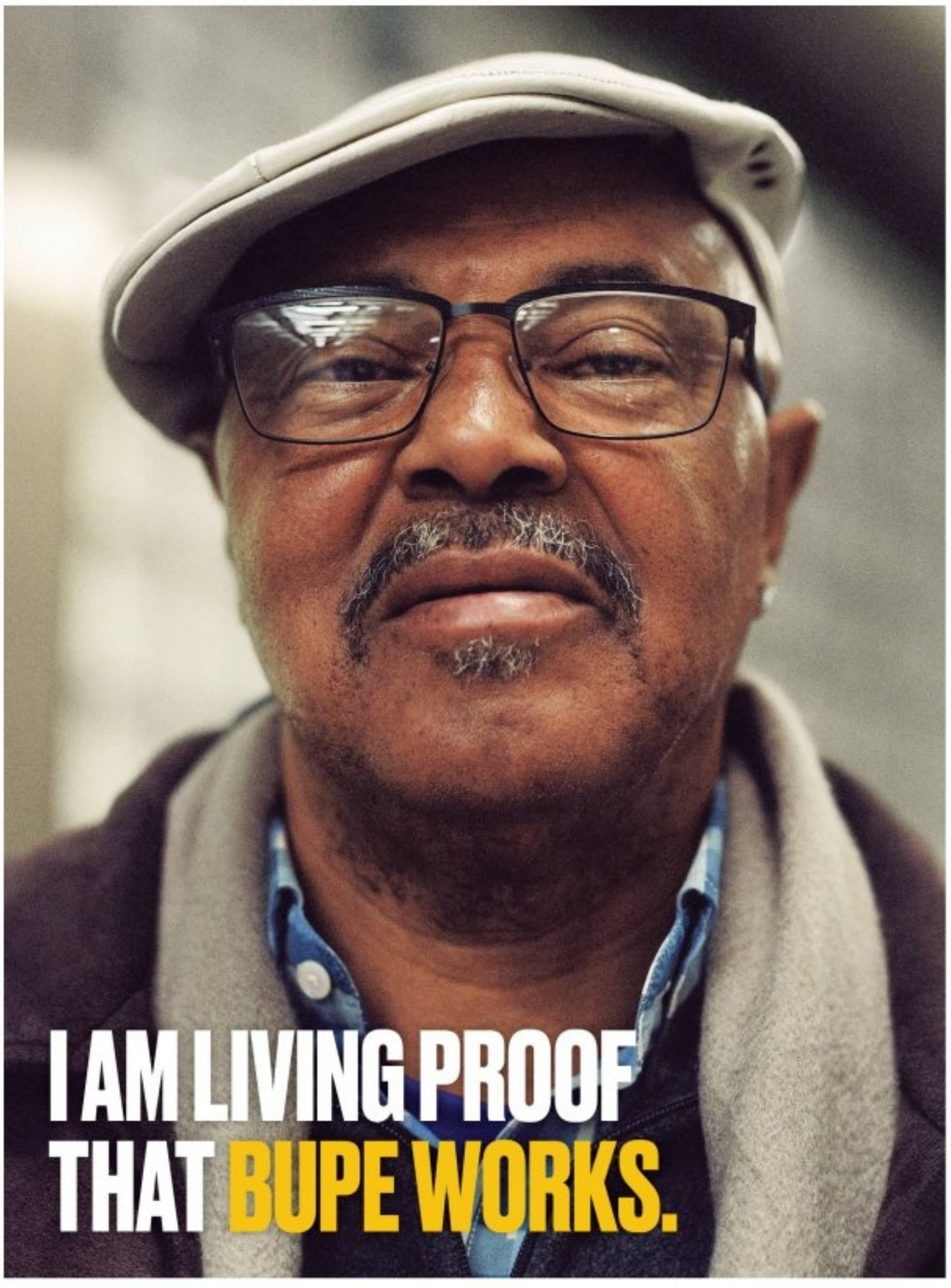
Erin go bragh! St. Patrick's Day weekend is officially here and it's time to celebrate and enjoy the lucky holiday. Some top Philly spots are offering tasty deals, fun celebrations and just all around odes to Ireland over these next three days, and all Philadelphians are invited to indulge in being Irish for the weekend. Here is where you should head this weekend to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Baker Street Bread Company
Irish soda bread is a delicious treat that can be enjoyed any time of the year, but on St. Paddy's Day it tastes extra special. Baker Street Bread Company is offering a hearty Irish soda loaf ($7), mouthwatering Irish soda scones (mini $1, large $2.75) and its double-decker creation: The tricolored corned beef sandwich ($9.50). The corned beef sandwich is inspired by the Irish flag, and is made with green and orange vegetables, marbled white bread and juicy layers of corned beef. *8009 Germantown Ave., bakerstreetbread.com*

Art in the Age
In honor of the green-clad holiday, Old City's one-of-a-kind tasting room, home bar supply and bottle shop created the Ginger Prince. This festive cocktail is made with AITA's newest innovation, the Ginger Quince Cordial. Philadelphians can buy everything they need to create this incredible drink while supplies last for $49.99. *116 N. 3rd St., artintheage.com*

Urban Farmer
Head to Urban Farmer on St. Paddy's Day for two delicious brunch and dinner specials: its corned beef hash and shepherd's pie. The hash is available for brunch ($18) and consists of beets, kale, fingerling potatoes, sunny egg, chive and béarnaise while the pie will be available for dinner ($17) and consists of peas, carrots, ground lamb and Yukon potatoes. *1850 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., urbanfarmerphiladelphia.com*

P.J. Whelihan's and Pour House
Head to P.J. Whelihan's and Pour House this weekend to indulge in some deliciously festive specials. Philadelphians can indulge in the St. Paddy Melt (tender homemade corned beef topped with melted swiss and cabbage slaw on toasted sourdough bread), shepherd's pie and corned beef and cabbage all day on March 16 and 17. Thirsty as well? P.J.'s and Pour House will be serv-



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The Frozen Shamrock FOOD SHELTER PR

Iron Hill's St. Patty's Day platter FOOD SHELTER PR

ing up pints of Guinness for $4 and Celtic-inspired cocktails such as the Let's Get Shamrocked (Tito's Vodka, blue curacao and Red Bull yellow edition), the Frozen Shamrock (vodka, Bacardi ice cream, Bailey's Irish Cream, crème de menthe and whipped cream) and more. *Various locations, pjspub.com, pjspourhouse.com*

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

Iron Hill is celebrating St. Paddy's Day this Saturday and Sunday with the release of its O'Sullivan Stout. This traditional dry Irish stout is served on nitrogen, black in color and boasts a roasty malt flavor with a pronounced dry finish. Enjoy the brew with a plate of mouthwatering corned beef and cabbage. Then on Saturday Philadelphians can head to Iron Hill's Chestnut Hill location for its outdoor Irish Fest from 12 p.m.-4 p.m. Iron Hill will be brewing its Irish Red Ale with the Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia and serving up great Irish food, music and fun for all ages. *Various locations, ironhillbrewery.com*

P.J. Clarke's

P.J. Clarke's is serving up traditional Irish fare all day long this St. Patrick's Day. Specials include a corned beef and cabbage platter, corned beef on rye, Faroe Island salmon and its Irish Citywide. The best part? You can take your shot glass home with you after celebrating. *601 Walnut St., pjclarkes.com*

Pineville Tavern

Both of Pineville Tavern's locations are celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a delicious giveaway and tasty menu specials on March 16 and 17. Pineville's Fishtown location will be setting up its smoker outside and handing out complimentary hand-carved corned beef reuben sliders from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Both locations will also be offering up traditional corned beef and cabbage platters ($18), pints of Guinness, Irish whiskey and cocktail specials. As a bonus, both locations will also be serving up "Bryce Krispie Treats" ($3) in honor of Harper signing with the Phillies. All proceeds from the treats will go to toward Harper's charity Harper's Heroes. *Various locations, pinevilletavern.com*

The tri-colored corned beef sandwich at Baker Street PUNCH MEDIA

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Fun things to do in Philly this weekend

YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

Looking for some fun and unique things to do this weekend? We've got you covered. Here are 10 fun things to do in Philly this weekend.

ARTS & CULTURE

East Market in Bloom

This DIY planter workshop is happening every Saturday in March and the first weekend in April. Each course offers a rotating DIY plant class by Beaucycled at East Market, food and beverage samples and discounts from a variety of local restaurants and food trucks, plus local live entertainment. This week's festivities will consist of tasty treats from the Munchy Machine food truck, discounts at Iron Hill Brewery, a Chad's Ford Winery Pop Up and live entertainment from Rad & Kell.
March 16, 1 pm-4 pm, 1118 Market St., $15, eastmarket.com

Michael Londra and the Celtic Fire

Head to the Annenberg Center this weekend to truly get in the mood for St. Patrick's Day. Guests will be dazzled by Irish singing sensation Michael Londra, the talented cast of Riverdance and Lord of the Dance alumni while they perform traditional Irish music and step dancing. Londra and the talented dancers will be backed by an ensemble of Ireland's finest musicians all straight from the heart of the Emerald Isle.
March 16, 8 pm, Annenberg Center, 3680 Walnut St., $24-$49, annenbergcenter.org

Behind Closed Doors

The Chestnut Street Singers are exploring works from different artists that were originally composed or performed in secret and bringing them to life onstage this weekend. Many notable composers and poets have worked behind closed doors and the CSS are honoring these incredible works of art by performing them in front of an audience instead of only being shared with a select few.
March 15 and 17, times vary, Presbyterian Church of Chestnut, Hill, 8855 Germantown Ave. and Saint Mark's Church, 1625 Locust St., prices vary, chestnutstreetsingers.org

FAMILY

Kids can make their own pizza creation this weekend. PIZZERIA VETRI

Little Chefs Pizza Class

Head to Pizzeria Vetri this weekend with your kiddos to join in on this delicious class. Guests that attend will be led by Vetri's head chefs during this interactive course where they will create their own mini pizzas and watch them bake while also enjoying "make your own pizza" coloring pages. There will be small bites for snacking and the little chefs can even take a mini dough ball back with them to try their new skills out at home.
March 16, 10 am, Pizzeria Vetri, 1939 Callowhill St., $35, pizzeriavetri.com

GOING OUT

Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Bar Crawl

Celebrate the beer-filled green-clad holiday in style with this fun bar crawl throughout the city. Guests will start at Howl at the Moon and will continue to other top spots such as Down Philadelphia, Tavern on

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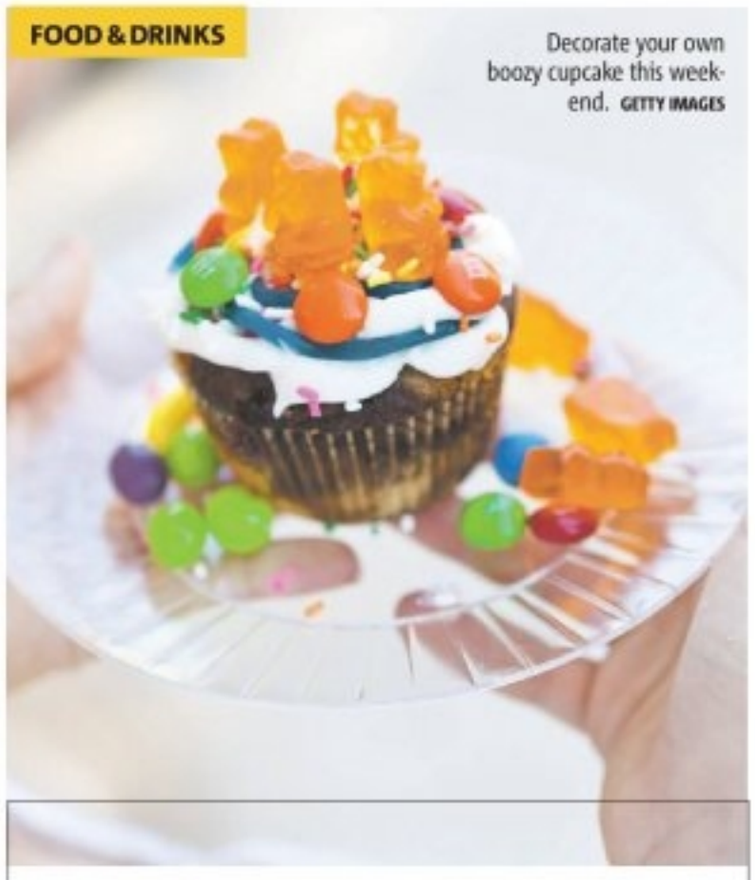

Decorate your own boozy cupcake this weekend. GETTY IMAGES

St. Patrick's Day BYOB Adult Baking Class

Head to this delicious event with your significant other or loved one to truly have a St. Patrick's Day weekend to remember. Guests can participate in all the boozy deliciousness by creating your own cupcake batter with your favorite spirit (provided) and by learning how to make your own buttercream icing. After the cupcakes are baked and cooled you are free to decorate your tasty masterpiece. Each couple gets a dozen cupcakes and there will also be games and prizes at the event. **March 16, 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Old Pine Community Center, 401 Lombard St., $99, thekupcakebar.com**

St. Paddy's Day at Springfest Live!

Sample over 170 of the best beers around from over 75 notable breweries. Springfest Live! will feature incredible indoor and outdoor areas where guests can grab a bite from one of the mouthwatering food trucks and jam out to the best Irish bands in the city. VIP tickets are also available for the event. **March 16, 2 p.m.-6 p.m., 1100 Pattison Ave., $35-$90, xfinitylive.com**

Gatsby Gala

The Moshulu is hosting this grand evening filled with all things great and Gatsby. The ship will be decked out with roaring 20s decor and plenty of glitz and glam. Guests can indulge in food stations and hors d'oeuvres, enjoy a live jazz band in the Stateroom and a DJ playing throwback classics and today's hits on the deck. There will be an open bar available until 11 pm, after that a cash bar will set up shop so the fun can continue on all night long. Dressing up is recommended. **March 16, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Moshulu, 401 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd, $45, moshulu.com**

MUSIC

Meek Mill is hitting the stage in Philly this weekend GETTY IMAGES

Meek Mill

The Philly native is coming home to the City of Brotherly Love to perform some of his smash hits from his impressive musical repertoire this weekend at the new Philadelphia Met venue. Mill will be performing some of his greatest songs this weekend including "24/7", "Going bad", "Dangerous", "All Eyes on You", "Uptown Vibes" and much more. This is not a show you want to miss. **March 15-16, 8 pm, The Met Philadelphia, $49.50-$99.50, 858 N Broad St., Philadelphia, themetphilly.com**

MUSIC

Tritonal

The electronic DJ duo Tritonal is bringing their dancefloor bangers to the City of Brotherly Love for one night only. Chad Cisneros and David Reed have been kicking out upbeat hit tunes for over a decade and they are celebrating Philly style. The Austin natives will be playing some of their greatest hits such as "Out My Mind," "When I'm With You", "Now or Never," "Easy,, "Call Me" and much more. **March 15, 8:30 p.m.-11 p.m., Franklin Music Hall, 421 N. 7th St., $25, bowerypresents.com**

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Where to eat in *Philadelphia* this weekend

The best places for dining, drinking and enjoying.

MOLLY GIVEN
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Clarkville is one of the city's best-kept secrets. CLARKVILLE

Philadelphia is home to plenty of amazing restaurants, bars and hot spots that have their own unique take on the culinary world. Discovering all of the best spots in the city is not the easiest feat, but we have some insight that may help you find your new favorite restaurant in Philadelphia. Here are the best places to eat in Philadelphia this weekend.

Clarkville
Clarkville isn't only West Philly's best-kept secret, it's the whole city's best-kept secret. Tucked away next to Clark Park, Clarkville offers nothing but good times, amazing food and plenty of beer. Anyone who has eaten here knows how truly unique this eatery is, and if you haven't had the chance to indulge in Clarkville just yet, now is the time. Mouthwatering menu items include braised meatballs, house-made manicotti, fried chicken (voted among the best in Philly), chestnut babaganoush, burrata and bone marrow, fried doughnuts and plenty of delicious pizza options including a kale white pie, honey pie, lamb pie and more. Clarkville also offers a tremendous alcohol selection with plenty of wine and beer to indulge in.
4301 Baltimore Ave., clarkvillephilly.com

Buddakan
Buddakan is not just a place to eat, it's a place to admire. This modern Asian hot spot is truly an experience. As soon as you walk in the door, the first thing you see is the 10-foot-tall Buddha, waterfalls and chic decor. Dining at Buddakan feels like a treat. Every aspect of this Old City hot spot just works, from the bar to the place settings and the impressive menu. Delectable dishes include tuna tartare spring rolls, crispy calamari salad, tea-smoked spare ribs, edamame dumplings, lobster egg rolls, wasabi mashed potatoes, a whole Peking duck, pan-seared sea bass, grilled lamb chops, Dungeness crab sticky rice and much more. Buddakan also offers plenty of wine, sake and cocktails. The cocktail selection

Sip on some delicious cocktails this weekend. GETTY IMAGES

Head to The Dandelion this weekend for some sweet treats. THE DANDELION

includes their Zen-gria, Rickshaw, Geaux East and more.
325 Chestnut St., buddakan.com

The Dandelion
The Dandelion offers a little slice of the U.K. right in Center City. As soon as you walk in the door, you realize this place is the real deal. There are unique seating areas, hallways, little rooms, curious nooks and of course the "ruff"-and-tumble "Dog Room." It's almost like you've walked into someone's home and you happen to find an eclectic bar, gorgeous dining room and incredible food. Menu items include smoked salmon and trout kedgeree cakes, house-made ricotta, market oysters, crispy Hampshire pork belly, steak and chips, lemon barley risotto, bangers and mash, triple-cooked chips and much more. The Dandelion also offers an impressive beverage menu with a lot of variety, a mouthwatering brunch menu, lunch menu and afternoon tea.
124 S. 18th St., thedandelionpub.com

Radicchio Cafe
Need a break from the city? Head to the Radicchio Cafe to escape for a while — even though this hot spot is in the heart of Northern Liberties, it's the perfect spot to hide away and indulge in absolutely amazing Italian fare. There are a lot of incredible Italian spots in Philly, but this eatery offers the same level of cuisine for an unbeatable price. Plus, the experience itself is worth the trip. Enticing menu items include broccoli rabe with sausages, grilled octopus, veal milanese, dover sole, chicken sorrentina, fusili toto, gnocchi, plenty of incredible spaghetti selections and much more. Everything is fresh and delicious, from the bread to the sauce. After dinner be sure to indulge in their incredible gelato and coffee selection. This Northern Liberties gem is BYOB and always an amazing time.
402 Wood St., radicchiophilly.com

Toasted Walnut
If you want to kick back and let your hair down, head to Toasted Walnut. This hot spot has served as a release from the everyday stress of life for years — and when you dine or drink there, you see why. There's a lit-up bar, intimate seating, a mezzanine area, a VIP room and a beer pong table that is always ready to use. How does a place with this fun an atmosphere manage to have incredible food as well? Who knows, but Toasted Walnut knocks it out of the park, culinarily speaking. Menu items include shrimp dumplings, deviled eggs, a build-your-own mac and cheese skillet, popcorn chicken, a vegan burger, a Memphis stacker and much more. And if you come for the fun, you'll stay for the drinks, with plenty of amazing beer, wine, spirits and cocktail options.
1316 Walnut St., toastedwalnut.com

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Fun things to do in Philly this month

16

Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Bar Crawl
March 16

Celebrate the greatest holiday of the year with a festive bar crawl full of beer, four-leaf clovers, luck and more. **March 16, 2-10 p.m., Howl at the Moon, 258 S. 15th St., $2-$27**

18

The Pixies
March 18

The popular alt-rock band is coming to the City of Brotherly Love ahead of their new summer album. **March 18, 7:30 p.m., The Fillmore, 29 E. Allen St., $55**

21

T-Pain
March 21

The man who brought Auto-Tune into mainstream music is hitting the stage in Philly to perform some of his greatest hits. **March 21, 8 p.m., Theater of Living Arts, 334 South St., $30-$127**

22

Friday Night Jazz
March 22

Throughout the spring, the galleries of the Woodmere Art Museum will be flooded with talented jazz musicians performing smooth hits. **March 22, 6-8 p.m., Woodmere Art Museum, 9201 Germantown Ave., $14-$24**

22

Fleetwood Mac
March 22

The legendary band is bringing their tour to Philly and will be performing some of their smash hits with a new lineup. **March 22, 8 p.m., Wells Fargo Center, 3601 S. Broad St., $69-$229**

23

Experimental Pasta Making
March 23

Learn how to make different types of pasta, then eat said pasta with a family-style meal boasting salad, bread and dessert. **March 23, noon-3 p.m., Birchtree Catering, 4500 Worth St., $97**

24

Big Philly Bridal Show and Expo

March 24

If you're a future bride, groom, in a wedding party or are just curious about matrimony, this expo has it all. **March 24, noon-3:30 p.m., Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., $5-$20**

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

26

Science After Hours: "Speakeasy"

March 26

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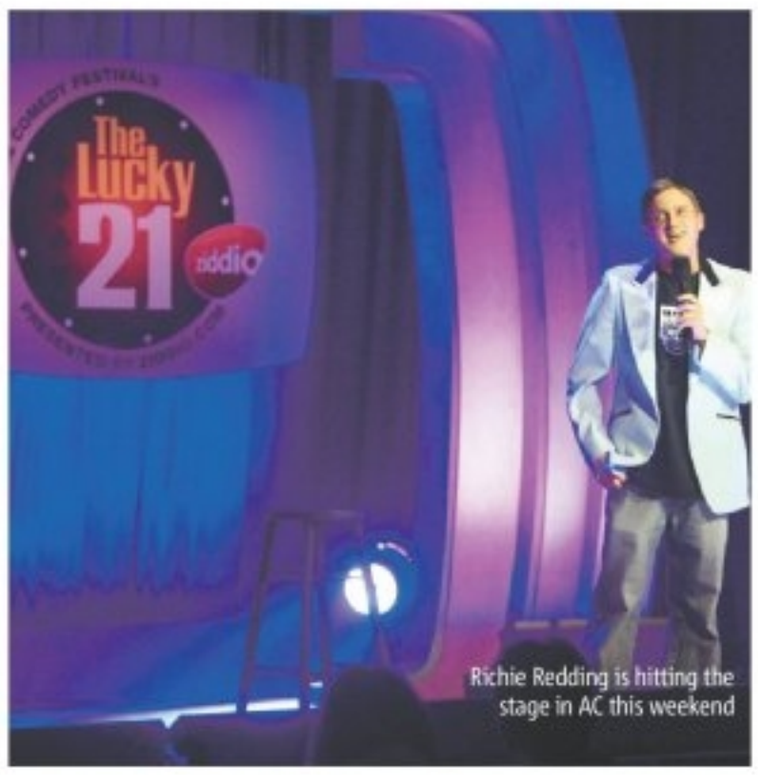
4 Fun things to do in AC this weekend

Jam out to a "Queen" tribute band, see a comedy show and more. **MOLLY GIVEN**

The St. Pat's 5k and 10 miler is this weekend ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



Richie Redding is hitting the stage in AC this weekend

Philadelphia has a lot to offer, but so does the beautiful coastal town Atlantic City. The city has grown exponentially over the past few years and is no longer just a casino or beach destination, it's a place to escape and indulge in fun activities and escapades. Here are four fun things to do in Atlantic City this weekend.

Richie Redding (Katt Williams tour) ft. Napoleon Emill

The popular comedian is hitting the stage in Atlantic City this weekend at the Atlantic City Comedy Club. You may have seen Redding on AXS's "Gotham Comedy Live," featured in the prestigious Just for Laughs Comedy Festival in Montreal or at HBO's Comedy Festival in Las Vegas. The UPenn graduate was hand-selected by Katt Williams the past few years to perform as his feature act, and Redding has also been a constant presence in New York's top clubs including Barclays Center and Madison Square Garden.

March 16, 7 p.m., Atlantic City Comedy Club, 2831 Boardwalk, $49, atlanticcitycomedyclub.com

Flashback Friday

Flashback Fridays is a series of concerts held by the Golden Nugget all centered around throwback hits that still get everyone up and dancing. This week the concert will feature music from the legendary rock band Queen. Tribute band Queen Flash will be pumping out some of Queen's greatest hits including "Bohemian Rhapsody," "We Will Rock You," "Don't Stop Me Now," "Another One Bites the Dust," "Love of My Life," "Somebody To Love" and much more. Admission is free to the concert, plus there will be plenty of delicious and refreshing food and drink specials.

March 15, 7 p.m., Golden Nugget, 600 Huron Ave., free, goldennugget.com

Painting From Life

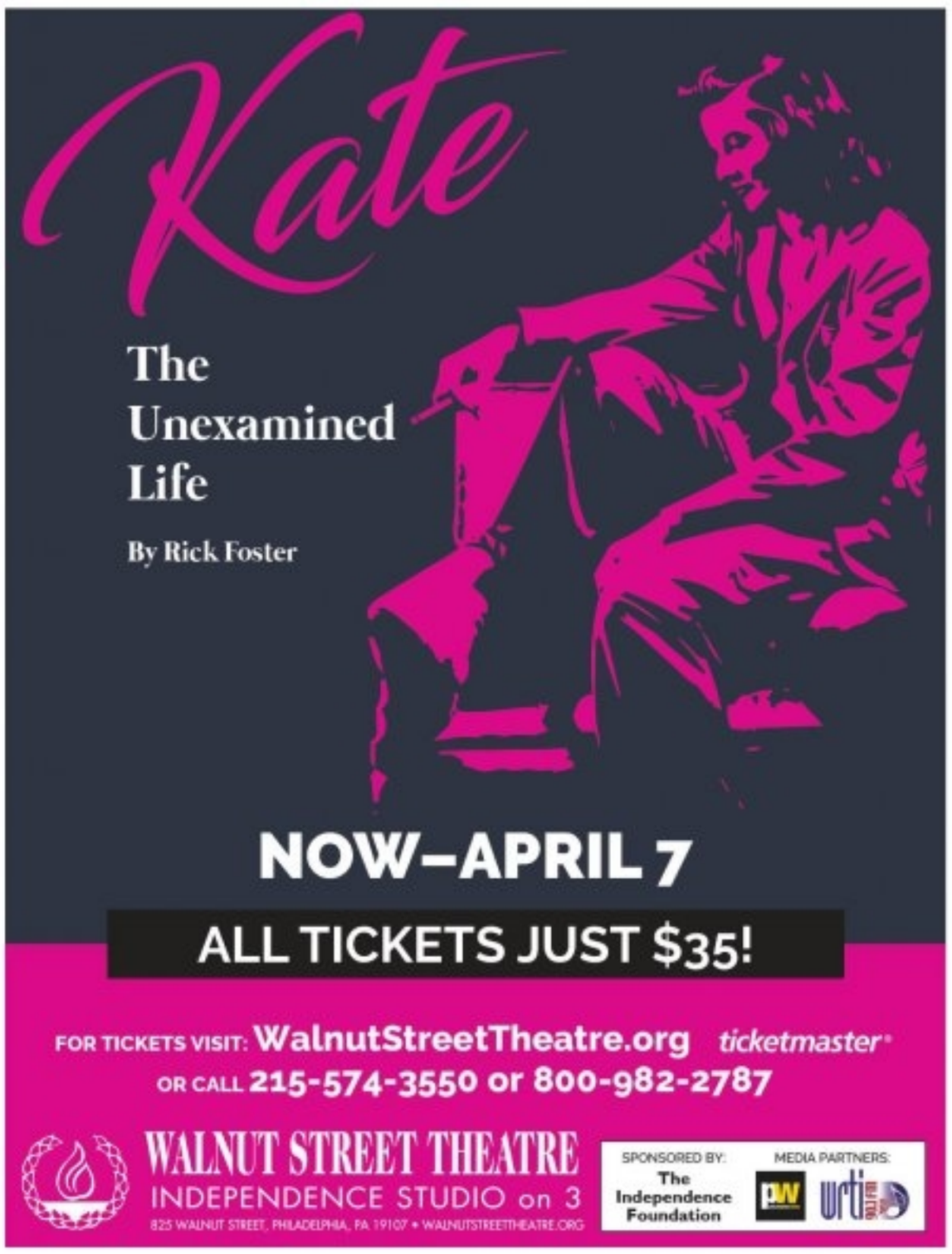
Calling all aspiring artists, crafty individuals and those who are just looking to attend a fun and unique event. This acrylic painting class is for anyone at any painting level and will be focusing on still life, figures, self-portraits, interiors and more. The class will also be reviewing composition, underpainting, basic acrylic techniques, materials, color theory and mixing.

March 16, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Noyes Museum of Art, 2200 Fairmount Ave., $35, artsgarageac.com

St. Pat's Boardwalk 10 miler and 5k run

Suit up those sneakers and break out some green workout gear- the St. Pat's Boardwalk 10 miler and 5k run is this weekend in AC. The 5k and 10 Miler course will start and finish at the corner of North Carolina and the Boardwalk with the 10-mile runners running north and the 5k runners heading south. Awards will be given to the top three male and female runners overall.

March 16, 10 a.m., 1133 Boardwalk, $40, runsignup.com



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Pat King
Grumble Editor

READER WRITE-INS:

BALANCE IS EVERYTHING

What's up with employees at places like Subway or Just Salad piling on ingredients when you order a sandwich or salad? It's okay to prepare everything quickly, but when I order red onions on my sub, don't pile on an ENTIRE ONION! Would you want to bomb your taste buds like that if you were making a sub for yourself? You gotta have some balance!

— **Jeff**, *Metro New York reader*

WHEN BANDS GO ON SUPER-LATE

I just LOVE it when you go to a show and the band you go to see takes their sweet time to get onstage. I saw a band last week and it took them an hour in between the opener and their set to start playing. By the time they started, I felt like I wanted to go home. I had to work in the morning!

— **Sherry Lewis**, *Metro Boston reader*

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Aries Look for the good in everyone and everything. Having a positive attitude and refusing to let your emotions cause a ruckus will help eliminate drama from your life.

Taurus Consider all avenues, but don't take the one that will cause distress. You'll gain the most in the long term by keeping the peace and working alongside others instead of causing disruption and chaos.

Gemini Consider what makes you angry or upset, and distance yourself from situations and people that have that effect on you. Spend more time with whoever brings out the best in you.

Cancer Convey the way you feel and what you want to see happen if you intend to make progress. If you pay attention to a loved one, the response you get will be rewarding.

Leo Try something new. Connect with people who share your interests, but don't feel compelled to buy others' friendship. Offer your fair share, nothing more.

Virgo You'll have a revelation that will lead to a big decision. Someone you meet will show you the ropes and get you started on a new adventure.

Libra Don't mix business with pleasure. Do your job to the best of your ability and make plans to spend time with a loved one. Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you.

Scorpio Taking a short trip, attending a meeting or learning something new will push you in an unexpected direction. If you go with the flow, you'll discover a hidden skill or talent.

Sagittarius Stick to the facts, or someone will question your assertions. You'll do best if you work alone and spend time on self-improvement, instead of trying to change others.

Capricorn Line things up and get started. Don't stop until you are satisfied with the results you get. A change at home will give you the space you need to start something new.

Aquarius Ignore what's going on around you and focus on being your very best mentally, physically and financially. Set goals and get started.

Pisces Invite friends over or plan an evening with a loved one. Sticking close to home will lead to simple changes that will improve your surroundings and add to your comfort. EUGENIA LAST

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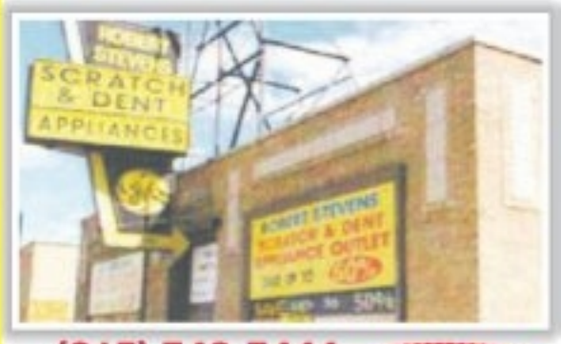

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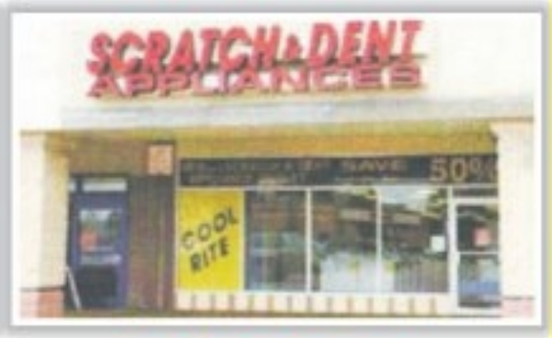

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AR-15 rifles are displayed for sale at the Guntoberfest gun show in Oaks, Pennsylvania. REUTERS

Sandy Hook families can sue gunmaker Remington: Court

Plantiffs can now pursue a claim under Connecticut's consumer protection statute.

Connecticut Supreme Court on Thursday allowed families who lost loved ones in the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre of school children to sue Remington Outdoor Co. Inc. in a setback to gun makers, which until now have been largely shielded from liability.

The families of nine of the victims and one survivor have said the manufacturer, along with a gun wholesaler and local retailer, are partially responsible for the carnage at the Newtown, Connecticut, school because they marketed the weapon based on its militaristic appeal.

Adam Lanza, 20, used a Remington AR-15 Bushmaster rifle, a semi-automatic civilian version of the U.S. military's M-16, to kill 20 children aged 6 and 7 as well as six adult staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14, 2012. He then killed himself.

Remington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the firearm industry's trade association, said it was reviewing the decision and did not have an immediate comment.

Josh Koskoff, one of the lawyers for the victims' families, said in a statement the families were grateful for the court's rejection of the gun industry's bid for complete immunity.

"The families' goal has always been to shed light on Remington's calculated and profit-driven strategy to expand the AR-15 market and court high-risk users, all at the expense of Americans' safety. Today's decision is a critical step toward achieving that goal," Koskoff said.

Legal experts have said any appeal of the ruling by the gunmaker

Alleged Gambino crime boss shot, killed outside Staten Island home

The reported crime boss of the New York Mafia's Gambino family, Francesco "Franky Boy" Cali, was gunned down in front of his Staten Island home late Wednesday, police and media said.

Cali, 53, was fatally shot multiple times to his torso shortly after 9 p.m. Thursday in front of his home, police said.

Media, including the New York Post, reported that Cali was shot at least six or seven times and also run over by a blue pickup truck driven by the shooter, citing unidentified police sources.

"There are no arrests and the investigation is ongoing."

Police statement

The Gambino crime operation is one of the five historic Italian-American Mafia families in New York, Reuters has previously reported, and it makes money through violence and extortion.

Charges against members of Mafia operations, including Gambino family operatives, have included murder, loan sharking, gambling and illegal drug distribution, Reuters has reported.

The New York Daily News reported in 2008 that Cali was among 62 people arrested on fed-

would likely be taken up by the U.S. Supreme Court, where it could face steep legal hurdles.

The 2005 Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, or PLCAA, has provided the U.S. firearms industry an almost impenetrable defense against lawsuits by victims of mass shootings and gun violence, broadly shielding Remington and others such as American Outdoor Brands Corp., Sturm Ruger & Co. and Vista Outdoor Inc. from liability stemming from such incidents.

The families had tried to advance the case on a relatively novel argument in gun litigation based on the legal doctrine of negligent entrustment, an argument historically used when someone lends a car to a high-risk driver who then causes an accident.

But the narrowly divided Supreme Court judges rejected that theory in a 4-3 ruling, instead saying the families could bring their claims under a different exemption to the 2005 federal shield law, basing it on a Connecticut consumer protection statute.

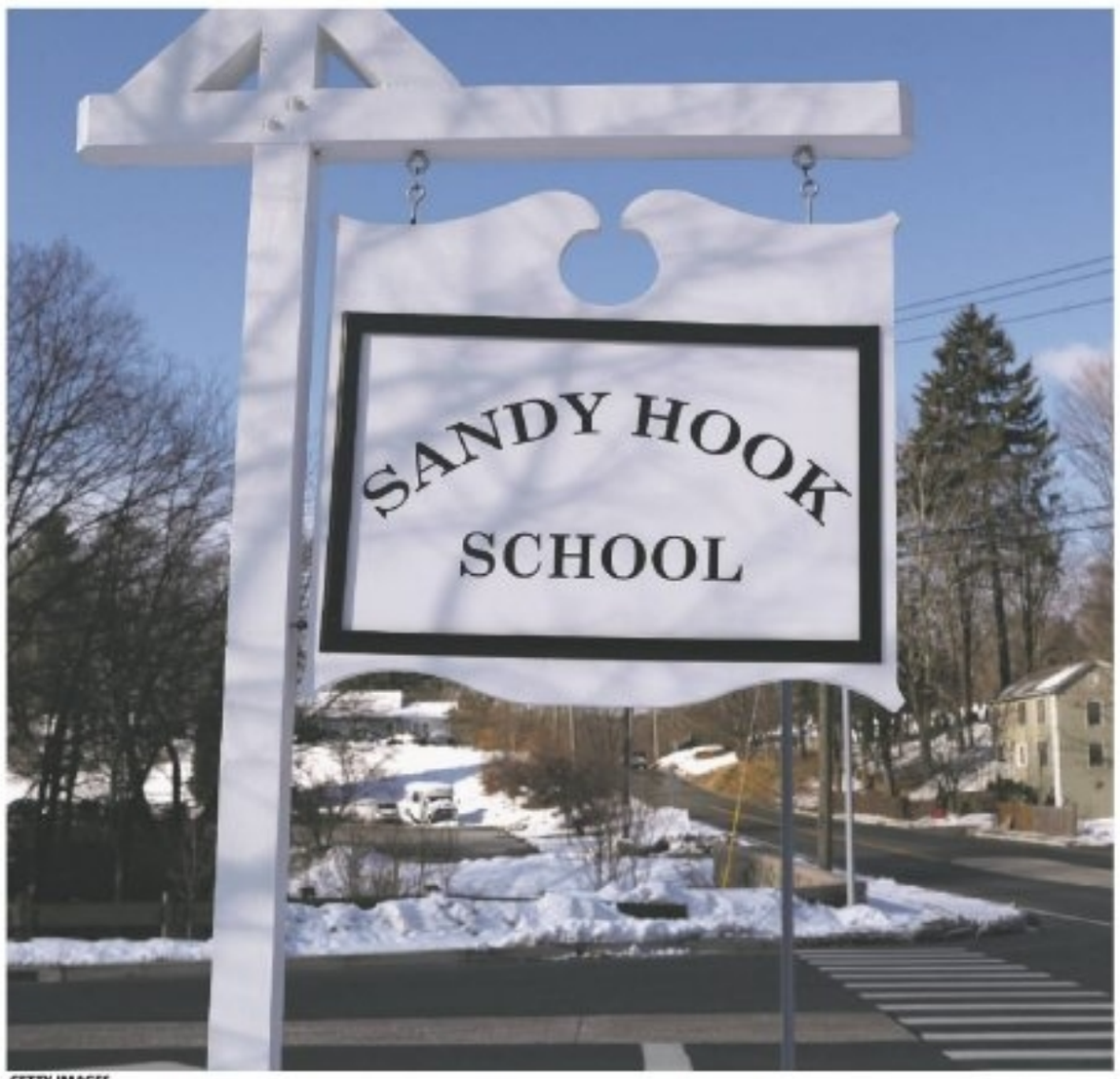
The court said PLCAA did not bar wrongful marketing claims and unethical advertising of dangerous products for illegal purposes and that plaintiffs could pursue those claims under state law.

Three dissenting judges rejected that finding, saying the federal gunmaker shield law did not include such exceptions.

The tragedy led then-President Barack Obama to urge federal gun control legislation, but proposals died on Capitol Hill.

Since Sandy Hook and subsequent school shootings, most federal efforts at gun control or gun rights expansion have faded and the bulk of firearms legislation has been in state legislatures across the country.

REUTERS



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REUTERS IMAGES & POLIZIA ITALIANA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

eral racketeering charges and he later pleaded guilty to conspiring to extort money. He served a 16-month sentence.

There is no known motive for the shooting of Cali, a police watch commander told Reuters.

"There are no arrests and the investigation is ongoing," police said in a statement.

REUTERS

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Philly ranks second on list of most aggressive drivers in United States

Data from a driving app tracked aggressive moves behind the wheel.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

Philly seems to be mad as hell and taking it out on the roads.

Philadelphia ranks No. 2 on a list of the most aggressive drivers in America, according to a new study.

The survey was done by the fuel-savings app GasBuddy, which has been downloaded more than 70 million times nationwide. Their analysts examined data from an optional feature on the app that analyzes driving habits and suggests how motorists can save fuel.

For the study's purposes, aggressive driving was defined as speeding, swift acceleration and hard braking. Tens of millions of trips between December and March were analyzed. Hard braking was the most frequently observed "aggressive driving event" at 67 percent of the total, followed by speeding (25 percent) and acceleration (8 percent).

"Frustration while driving in densely populated cities with high levels of congestion leads motorists to drive more aggressively and with more urgency. Interestingly, these are areas that typically see some of the highest gas prices in their respective states," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

The city taking the top spot was Los Angeles. After Philly, the rest of the top 10 included Sacramento, Atlanta, San Francisco, San Diego, Orlando, Detroit, Austin and Las Vegas.

In addition to coming in tops overall, Los Angeles and Philly led the pack in hard braking and rapid acceleration. San Diego, Orlando and Detroit took the top 3 spots for speeding.

As for New York City, the provenance of legendarily profane and mercenary cabbies has become a relative land of lotus eaters: It ranked No. 23, just above Kansas City.

Other findings: The most common aggressive driving day is Friday, and the least aggressive is Wednesday. Alaska was the state with the least aggressive drivers, and Minneapolis was the least aggressive big city, coming in 30th.

According to the AAA Traffic Safety Index, 68 percent of drivers nationwide say aggressive driving is a bigger problem than it was three years ago.

But chilling out behind the wheel won't just make you safer; it'll also save you money. Aggro driving habits like hard braking and speeding increase gas waste, squandering up to 40 percent of gas mileage and adding up to $477 to your annual fuel bill, GasBuddy said.

"Frustration while driving in densely populated cities with high levels of congestion leads motorists to drive more aggressively and with more urgency."

Patrick DeHaan

"With drivers in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Sacramento and Atlanta being 20 percent more aggressive than the average driver in America, it's particularly important for commuters and rideshare drivers in these areas to work on shedding their lead foot and relax more to keep money from flying out the window each time they hit the road," said DeHaan.

The coming months don't promise drivers much relaxation at the pump.

As of Thursday, the average national gas price was $2.52 a gallon, according to AAA. In Pennsylvania, it was $2.70. Analysts expect that will rise through the summer, thanks to diminishing supply and the industry's annual switch to summer-blend gasoline, which resists evaporation as temperatures rise. It's also more expensive to produce.

But some relief might be accessible via the ballot box: In May's election, Philadelphians will vote whether to create a special class of police officers dedicated to easing traffic congestion. City Council approved the initiative 13-4 on Thursday.

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'Empire' actor Smollett pleads not guilty to lying about Chicago attack

REUTERS

"Empire" actor Jussie Smollett pleaded not guilty in a Chicago court on Thursday to new charges that he falsely reported to police that he was the victim of a racist and homophobic assault on a city street.

Wearing a navy suit and dress coat, Smollett, 36, appeared serious and quiet standing next to his attorneys as Cook County Circuit Court Judge Steven Watkins was assigned to his case.

"Yes, sir," Smollett said in a soft voice as the judge instructed him that he would next return to court on April 12. Some of his relatives sat in the court's overflow gallery near a handful of fans, some wearing "Empire" shirts.

In an indictment returned by a grand jury last Thursday, Smollett, who is black, openly gay and plays a gay musician on Fox's hip-hop drama, was charged with 16 felony counts of disorderly conduct alleging he gave false accounts of an attack on him to police investigators.

Each count carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a $25,000 fine.

Smollett and his lawyers declined to comment as they left the courthouse.

Smollett was previously charged last month with felony disorderly conduct for making a false report after he told police he was attacked in January by masked supporters of President Donald Trump who beat him, slung a noose round his neck and poured a liquid chemical on him while shouting racist and homophobic slurs.

Detectives investigated the incident as a hate crime but local news outlets cited police sources saying it was believed to be a hoax.

Fox cut Smollett's character in "Empire" after he was arrested.

According to prosecutors, Smollett wrote a $3,500 check to two brothers and gave them $100 to buy the rope, ski masks, gloves and red baseball caps used in the supposed Jan. 29 attack.

Police said Smollett hoped the incident would advance his career and secure him a higher salary.

Police initially arrested the brothers on Feb. 13, after they were recognized from surveillance footage from near the scene of the alleged attack. One had appeared with Smollett on "Empire," police and their lawyer said. Prosecutors said one had supplied Smollett with "designer drugs" in the past.

The brothers confessed to the plot, police said. They became cooperating witnesses and were released without charges. REUTERS

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PUBLIC STORAGE # 25765, 2345 Castor Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134, (215) 600-1197
3/26/19 @ 10am

1060 - Lopez, Roberto; 1061 - Mcaneny, Bridget; 1100 - Newkirk, Arnold; 1102 - Cooper, Anthony; 1114 - Rodriguez, Nicholas; 1187 - Lima, Steve; 1202 - Shiffler, Helen; 1250 - Wilkins, Aarine; 1253 - Acosta, Sandra; 1268 - Thompson, Amirah; 1275 - Dunson, Raheem; 2006 - Gonzalez, Elvin; 2038 - Snyder, Sabrina; 2134 - English, Shante; 2194 - Marlin, Tiffany; 2231 - Alba, Edward; 2242 - Benitez, Marcelino; 2251 - Colon, Raymond; 2269 - Hayes, Sean; 2271 - Lindberg, Derek; 2292 - Donaldson, Listwell; 2294 - Sanchez, Howard; 2332 - Cruz, Alfredo; 2352 - Chicaleski, Alexandra; 2364 - Velez, Cristian; 3089 - Terrey, Matthew; 3208 - Muniz, Melissa; 3244 - Frazier, Shawn; 3352 - Johnson, Ora; 3384 - Ward, Joseph; 4009 - Laracuente, Inevis; 4048 - Carson, Philip

PUBLIC STORAGE # 29145, 2190 Wheatsheaf Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 309-8042
3/26/19 @ 11am

A011 - Mount, Dianna; A078 - Wise, Wayne; A212 - Riggins, Stacy; B007 - Culler, Jarrett; B020 - DeCinque, Marie; B157 - Hines, Eric; C019 - Burton, Maurisa; C024 - Belser, Anthony; D011 - Hopkins, Amy; E006 - Dreher, Charlie; G018 - Witherspoon, Carl; G019 - Portes, Mayra

PUBLIC STORAGE # 24417, 6301 Tacony Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135, (215) 309-8025
3/26/19 @ 12pm

A055 - Lowry, Karen; A069 - Garcia, Krystal; A087 - Chuck, Eileen; B212 - Norris, Diane; C259 - Morales, Angel; D375 - Gardin-Reyes, Andres; D462 - Acevedo, George

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23216, 6225 Oxford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111, (215) 253-6093
3/27/19 @ 11am

A0744 - Ramirez, Carmen; A101 - Juarbe, Jose; A123 - Deweever, Ryan; A300 - Fritz, Megan; A333 - Williams, Lauren; A347 - Espejo, Jennifer; A440 - Johnson, Anna; A457 - CARTER, LE; A508 - Ulrich, Cecelia; A620 - Mallory, Quaron; A728 - Muhammad, Salimah; A730 - Green, Ervin; A731 - González, Rosa; A760 - Naphys, Debra; A872 - Playfair, Kenisha; A873 - Santiago, Norberto; B1102 - Wright, Harry; B1201 - Castro, Ana; B1210 - Stewart, Jessie; B1417 - Brevard, Jane; B1731 - CARTER, LE; B1800 - Oldacre, Errol; B1806 - Bilal, Lloyd; C2301 - Davis, Colin; C2414 - Cella, Francis; C2424 - Mcneal-Graham, Meisha; C2519 - Kolman, Timothy

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23222, 1431 Ivy Hill Road, Philadelphia, PA 19150, (215) 309-8053
3/28/19 @ 12pm

A101 - More, Teresa; A130 - Colzie, Lisa; B311 - Pagan, Alberto; B329 - Dresnin, Larry; C516 - Nottingham, Robert; C600 - Smith, Jaasmine; C652 - Cross, Lord; D714 - Taylor, Richard; D832 - Best-Bey, Robin; E1003 - Monroe, Bianca; E1014 - Alliston, Keysha; E923 - Parkes, Jerryann; G1332 - Stricker, Edward; H1604 - Kelsh, Anne

Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Orangeco, Inc., 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080.

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Philly houses in Mt Airy. GETTY IMAGES

New low-interest loan program aims to help residents fix aging homes

The city's lower- and middle-income earners have found home-improvement loans hard to come by.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

A new low-interest loan program aims to help lower- and middle-class Philadelphia residents repair their aging homes.

Announced Wednesday by city officials, the program — called Restore, Repair, Renew — will allow Philly dwellers with credit scores as low as 580 to borrow up to $24,999 for 10 years at a fixed 3 percent interest rate, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The loan can be used for a spectrum of home improvements: removal of lead paint, mold and radon; roof and foundation repairs; electrical and HVAC work; and window and door replacement, among others. The work must be done by a city-licensed contractor.

"This will give people the opportunity to participate in what I call the most affordable housing program in the city — the house that you live in."

Darrell Clarke, Philadelphia City Council president

"This is something that is needed," Philadelphia City Council President Darrell Clarke told NBC 10. "This will give people the opportunity to participate in what I call the most affordable housing program in the city — the house that you live in."

The housing available to Philadelphia's middle class is aging: Nearly half of it was built before 1945. But according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, almost 75 percent of low- and middle-income earners were denied home-improvement loans between 2015 and 2017.

The new loan program originated in the spring of 2016, when Clarke and Councilwoman Cherelle Parker introduced legislation to invest in Philadelphia's deteriorating housing. They proposed a $100 million bond, to be paid for by raising the city's realty transfer tax from 3 percent to 3.1 percent. The change took effect at the beginning of 2017, adding about $200 to the tax bill of a $200,000 house when it sells.

$100M

Council members proposed a $100 million bond, to be paid for by raising the city's realty transfer tax from 3 percent to 3.1 percent.

The program begins immediately and will be administered by the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. City residents interested in applying for the loans must use the house as their primary residence; have homeowner's insurance; and have paid their property taxes to date or are in a payment program with the city.

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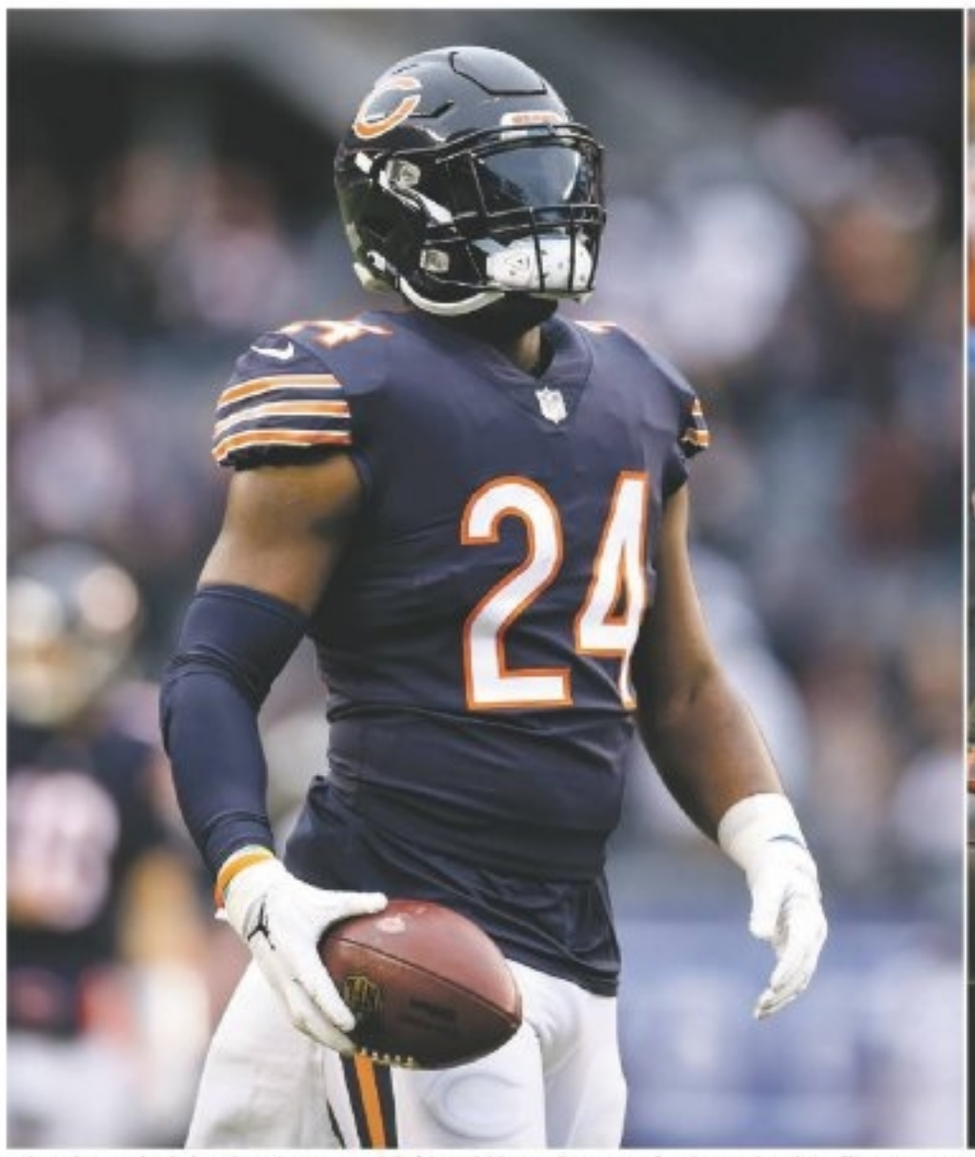
Jordan Howard, Duke Johnson among Eagles RB trade options

Philly needs backfield help but the free-agent market is thinning.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us



Duke Johnson (right) and Jordan Howard (left) could be trade targets for the Eagles this offseason. GETTY IMAGES

Any slight hope that Le'Veon Bell was going to make his way to the Eagles were extinguished when the former Steelers agreed to a four-year deal with the New York Jets as NFL free agency kicked off.

With that pipe dream brushed aside, the reality of the situation is that the Eagles have been fairly quiet this week after agreeing to a deal for Malik Jackson and bringing back wide receiver DeSean Jackson in a trade with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Among the largest items on general manager Howie Roseman's offseason checklist that has yet to be addressed is that running back position where many held an unreasonable belief that Bell would move across the state to Lincoln Financial Field.

The free-agent market grew even thinner after Tevin Coleman took a bargain of a deal with the San Francisco 49ers on Wednesday, which means the Eagles might have to look elsewhere to upgrade a troubling backfield.

Veteran rusher Jay Ajayi, who only played 11 games for the Eagles in one-plus season after suffering a torn ACL, is unlikely to return as he hits free agency. It leaves the Eagles with a trio of rushers that instill little confidence.

The injury-prone Darren Sproles has played just nine games over the last two seasons and has never been a featured back during his 14 years as a pro. Corey Clement posted just 259 yards in 11 games during his second season in the NFL while Wendell Smallwood has yet to record more than 87 rushes over his first three years in the league.

With Carson Wentz affirmed as the leading man in Philadelphia after Nick Foles' departure, Roseman needs to find a No. 1 back to help take some pressure off the Eagles passing game.

Here are two non-free-agent-options he could pursue this offseason:

JORDAN HOWARD

The Chicago Bears have been receiving trade calls for their starting running back, who is in the final year of his rookie deal.

The 24-year-old has regressed in each of his three seasons in the league, statistically speaking, which provides a worrisome trend. After bursting onto the scene with 1,313 yards (5.2 yards per attempt), Howard's numbers dropped to 1,122 in 2017 and 935 in 2018.

However, the most recent drop has plenty to do with his inability to get going under head coach Matt Nagy's system. The Bears coach is looking for an elusive back (like a Le'Veon Bell) that can make people miss. It's bad news for Howard as a downhill, hard-nosed runner, which means he's a poor fit.

While it's a style that isn't going to work in Chicago, it's just the kind of back Eagles fans should want as he will quickly adorn himself to the hometown faithful.

The Eagles have reportedly been in touch with the Bears over the past few months. They wouldn't have to give up much either as a lower-round pick could do the trick.

DUKE JOHNSON

On paper, this is more of a risky move to make compared to Howard considering Johnson has carried the ball just 299 times over his four-year career.

However, if the Eagles are content on returning to a backfield-by-committee approach, it makes perfect sense.

Johnson has proven to be an effective runner in such schemes during his time with the Cleveland Browns. He's averaged 4.3 yards per carry in his career, including a stellar 2018 in which he put up five yards per rush.

What makes him even more valuable is his dual-threat capabilities out of the backfield that could give Wentz a security blanket in the passing game.

The 25-year-old Miami (FL) product has recorded at least 47 receptions per season in the NFL with an average of 542 yards per year.

The Browns recently put Johnson on the trade block after acquiring Kareem Hunt, perCleveland.com'sMary Kay Cabot and at least three teams are interested.

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Exploring player-specific prop bets

Can D-Jax get back to elite status?

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

GETTY IMAGES

Dive deep into those kiosks because you can often find prop bets with awesome odds.

Several sportsbooks featured NFL free agency prop bets this week, including one on new/old Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson. One book had D-Jax over/unders set at 900.5 receiving yards and 4.5 receiving touchdowns.

The receiving yards prop is a toss-up, but that TD prop looks mighty juicy. Consider that Jackson had four TD grabs last season in just 12 games during a season in which the Buccaneers bounced back and forth between quarterbacks Jameis Winston and Ryan Fitzpatrick. At least five TDs seem like a good bet as Jackson registered nine TD grabs during his last stint in Philly in 2013, and he averaged 4.6 TDs per season during his time in Washington.

A lot of what this prop comes down to is how confident you are in Carson Wentz. Wentz threw 21 TDs in just 11 games this past season, and tossed 33 TDs in 13 games the year prior. Conservatively, let's say Wentz throws for 29 TDs in 16 games in 2019. Of those 29 TDs, would Jackson be able to haul in five of them? The bet here is yes.

Hitting that 900.5 yards mark with Jackson should be a bit more difficult. The 32-year-old has just one plus-900-yard season in the past four seasons. Alshon Jeffery registered 843 yards receiving in 13 games last season and Nelson Agholor posted 736 yards receiving in 2018. Throw Jackson into that mix and it's hard to imagine any of the Eagles receivers springing for over 900 yards simply because Wentz will want to spread the wealth.

FOLES' NEW HOME

There was also a prop concerning Nick Foles and his first season in Jacksonville.

Over/under
3,500.5 passing yards

Over/under
20.5 TD passes

There is no evidence to suggest Foles can pass for over 3,500 yards in a season. In fact, he's never passed for more than 2,900 yards in a full season.

The TD prop here is a little more interesting, though. In 2013 with the Eagles, Big D*** Nick tossed 27 TDs in 13 games. Last year he threw seven TDs in five games. Foles' weapons in Jacksonville aren't great, but the offense will be entirely built around his strengths. Again, go with the TD prop here over the yardage.

TWEET OF THE DAY

Joe Lunardi
@ESPNLunardi

Gotta get back to work. Final thought: Don't overreact to a single loss by clearly one of the country's four best teams. If Zags had lost this game a month ago, the conversation wouldn't exist.

Sports betting 101:
Beware of the bubble!

VSiN

In all sports, bettors have a tendency to make bad bets on "must-win" teams. They figure motivation is something that transcends points or price, and will inspire players to peak performance. And, this is especially true when a "must-win" scenario is lined up against an opponent "with nothing to play for."

It's not like it's a big secret who the bubble teams are. You're not catching the market napping by betting them. In some cases you're paying a premium because oddsmakers know the public wants to bet high-profile bubble teams, and shades the line against that tendency.

Why lay an extra half-point or point with a mediocrity that has a glaring weakness? You might get away with it once or twice. Over the large batch of possible betting options the next few weeks, asking inconsistent performers to lift their game is probably going to be a money-losing strategy.

It IS worth considering trying to find one or two tweeners who are just now playing their best basketball of the season. Maybe a team that was dealing with injuries before, but is now healthy. Maybe a very young team that learned from its early-season mistakes and improved its skill set. Maybe there's a case of "addition by subtraction" and a negative on-court influence is no longer in the rotation.

GETTY IMAGES

Some teams do peak late. And, there are occasional super-surgers motivated by a sense of urgency about reaching the Dance. The key is finding situations where motivation is a nice ingredient in a cocktail, rather than the only reason for betting.

Oddsmakers watch TV, too! Dodge the hype and focus on betting for value.

JEFF FOGLE

Betting trends

Preview: Philadelphia Flyers vs. Toronto Maple Leafs

FRIDAY, 7:00 P.M.

34-27-8	Overall record	42-23-5
34-35	P/L record	33-37
37-31	O/U record	35-31
16-14-1	Away/home	21-14-1
6-4	L10	6-4
6-2 P/L in L8	Betting trend	1-4 P/L in L5
+200	Line	-180

O/U: Over/under. L10 = Last 10 games.

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Weekend Tickets: Find the hot team entering the Big Dance

Plus, Sixers weekend picks.

ANTHONY GARGANO

Anthony Gargano is a sports radio host on @97.5TheFanatic in Philadelphia and on FOX Sports Radio.

Cramming for Bracketology is one of the great American pastimes. The field will be set, and from Sunday night into Tuesday morning you will be scouring for information on matchups and teams that you've probably rarely seen play to foretell your path to the Final Four.

But before you fill out your brackets and indulge in the Great Watch of Thursday and Friday — with the first round of the NCAA tourney — do yourself a big favor by doing your homework this weekend.

The conference tourneys are in full throttle and they should be viewed as more than just a fun appetizer. Watch the semis and finals of each tournament and see how teams are playing. They are great indicators as to what will happen the rest of March.

Over the last 20 years, 12 of the national champions had won their conference tournament and entered the Dance as a hot team — including Villanova last year. Three of the champs had lost in the finals of their conference tourney, while the other five made it to the semis.

Economists Daniel Stone of Bowdoin College in Maine and Jeremy Arkes of Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, California, published a study in the journal Economic Inquiry in 2016 that made the argument that the committee's seedlings do not reflect regency bias of how well a team is playing, instead favoring a season-long system.

What that means is the hot team is often undervalued by the committee and presents a good opportunity for Bracketologists, especially those teams that lose in their conference finals.

Sister Jean may give you a spiritual guide, but nothing portends better for a successful March than doing your homework.

TEAM TO WATCH

Since I write this column on Thursdays, please know the weekend is still a mystery. That said, I like potential sleepers Oregon and Oregon State in the PAC 12 and Florida in the SEC, as well as the favorite Kentucky, Villanova and Marquette in the Big East, Iowa State and Texas Tech in the Big 12, and Virginia and North Carolina in the ACC — meaning, I think Duke gets tripped up before the final weekend. I also love Buffalo to make a run, like we said a month ago.

SIXERS WEEKEND

GETTY IMAGES

I think the Sixers beat Sacramento in a revenge game but don't cover a spread of nine or more. Sunday is the barometer game against the Bucks but I don't think the Sixers have jelled enough with their new personnel to win.

LAST WEEK

Remember these past two weeks when you rip me for predicting losers. We nailed the Rockets beating the Sixers on Friday night — it was a rout from the start — and the Sixers beating the Pacers on Sunday. We nailed Boston over the Lakers on Saturday night and also had two easy college winners, Duke and Michigan State, to go 5-0.

Additionally, we told you to hop on the Browns future at 25 to 1 heading into free agency and they had a lovely first couple of days, including pulling off the trade for Odell.

Sports on TV Highlights

7:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** Sacramento Kings vs. Philadelphia 76ers	NBC Sports Philadelphia
7:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Philadelphia Flyers vs. Toronto Maple Leafs	NBC Sports Philadelphia +
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** TBA vs. Temple Owls	ESPNU
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Big East tournament quarterfinals	FOX Sports 1
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** ACC tournament semifinals	ESPN
11:30 pm	**Men's CBB** Pac 12 tournament semifinals	ESPN

Sixers and Flyers betting preview

The Sixers (43-25) should be able to extend their run of success against the Sacramento Kings (33-33) when they catch them on the latter half of a back-to-back at Wells Fargo Center on Friday night. Philly is 16-5 against the spread over their last 21 meetings with the Kings. Sacramento is currently without one of their best players, Marvin Bagley III (knee), and their offense is sagging without him. The Kings have averaged 113.7 points per game this year, but in five games without Bagley, their offensive output has dropped to 110 points per game. Sacramento was beginning to slump even with Bagley, going just 3-7 straight-up in their last 10 contests.

The play: Sixers spread

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS AT TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

After facing the Capitals at home on Thursday night, the Flyers (34-27-8) must head to Scotiabank Arena to take on the Toronto Maple Leafs (42-23-5) on Friday night.

The decision regarding whom to back straight-up is tricky; the Maple Leafs have lost three of their last four contests yet catch a sub-.500 club on the tail end of a back-to-back with travel. Over bettors have been cashing in on a regular basis with games involving either the Maple Leafs or the Flyers lately. Toronto's over/under record in their last 10 games is 8-2, while Philly has exceeded the total in six of their last eight tilts. Brian Elliott, relegated to the backup role with the return of Carter Hart, is the confirmed starter for the Flyers on Friday night.

The play: Flyers vs. Maple Leafs Over

VSiN DAILY LINE

NBA

SACRAMENTO KINGS AT PHILADELPHIA 76ERS -8.5

LOS ANGELES LAKERS AT DETROIT PISTONS -6.5

CHARLOTTE HORNETS AT WASHINGTON WIZARDS -4

NEW YORK KNICKS VS. SAN ANTONIO SPURS -12

NHL

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS +200 VS. TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS -180

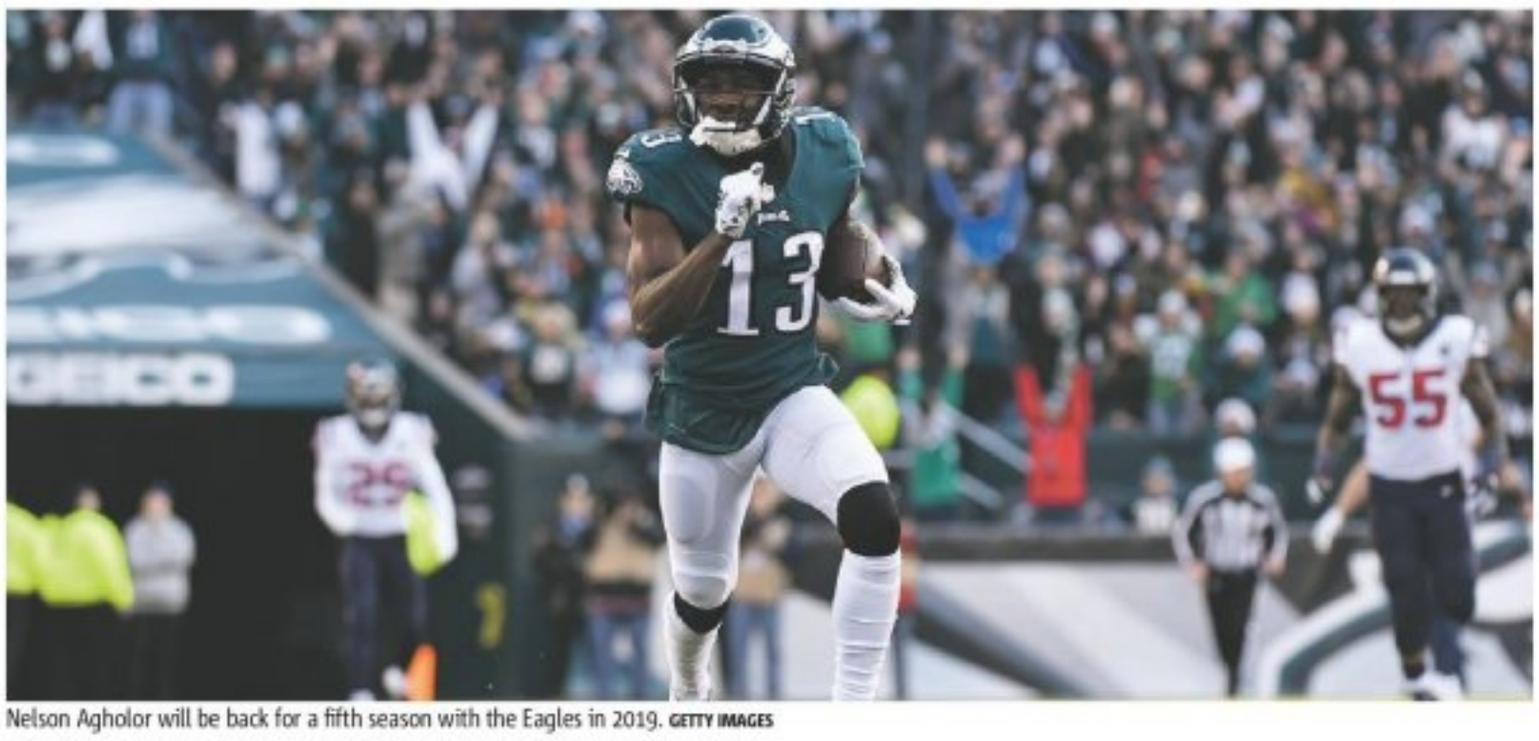
NEW YORK RANGERS +235 VS. CALGARY FLAMES -215

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS +130 VS. DALLAS STARS -110

Eagles keep Agholor, top 3 WRs set

Agholor will receive over $9 million in his fifth NFL season.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us



Nelson Agholor will be back for a fifth season with the Eagles in 2019. GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles' wide-receiving corps doesn't look like it's going to be experiencing too many changes.

Nelson Agholor will be back with the team in 2019, the Eagles opting to go in on his $9.3 million fifth-year option that will be his final season under contract before hitting unrestricted free agency.

Speculation swirled since the NFL Combine last month that Agholor was a trade candidate, making his future in Philadelphia uncertain at best.

"I understand that the organization will make the decision that's best for the team, and I truly feel blessed to be a part of the 2019 Eagles," Agholor wrote on Twitter Thursday morning. "The work never stops!"

It is by far the 25-year-old's largest payday with the Eagles, considering he never made more than $1.7 million in any of his first four professional seasons.

That leads to the question of whether or not he's worth such a deal. After shedding off a turbulent start to his NFL career, Agholor has developed into a solid third receiver in the Eagles offense.

Over the past two seasons, he's averaging 63 receptions for 752 yards per 16 games. The way the market is playing out for slot receivers this season, it seems like a fair contract. The Jets recently signed Jamison Crowder — a slot receiver who puts up similar numbers to Agholor — to a three-year, $28.5 million deal ($9.5 AAV).

Agholor's role isn't going to change as a slot option and the team's No. 3 receiving option.

Alshon Jeffery is poised to have a 1,000-yard season as Philadelphia's No. 1 receiver if healthy. He'll now be joined on the outside by the returning DeSean Jackson, who will provide Carson Wentz with another menacing deep threat.

To ensure Wentz will be the franchise quarterback the Eagles are hoping him to be — which is why they let Nick Foles go this offseason — general manager Howie Roseman will have to surround him with as many receiving options as possible.

Expect Wentz to rekindle his go-to-relationship with tight end Zach Ertz as well, which only adds another dangerous option to the Eagles' aerial attack.

Suddenly, Philadelphia's passing game is among the best in the NFC East. The Giants trading away Odell Beckham Jr. has left 38-year-old Eli Manning without his most threatening weapon while the Cowboys don't have much beneath Amari Cooper. It's a large reason why Jason Witten was coaxed out of retirement and the "Monday Night Football" booth and back onto the field.

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PUBLIC STORAGE # 22328, 245 West Chester Pike, Havertown, PA 19083, (484) 247-3851
March 27, 2019 Time: 10:00 AM

B031 - Thompson, Joe; B038 - Myers, Jody; B080 - Anderson, David; B133 - Thomas, Robynne; B144 - Batts, Demetria; B162 - Hall, Anthoney; B230 - Deabreu, Robert; C081 - Ayers, Deborah; C085 - Nestor, Alicia; C088 - Mcmullett, Savanna; C121 - Pineda, Malaya; C149 - Nafeesah, Kareemah

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23101, 8401 Lansdowne Ave, Upper Darby, PA 19082, (484) 268-5971
March 27, 2019 Time: 10:30 AM

A219 - Holmes, Martia; A322 - Stamps, Jefferey; A407 - Burgess, Maryann; A502 - Viles, Beverly; A548 - Devlin, Sherri; A604 - Orr, Margaret; A717 - Bennette, Jenieve; A801 - Beawin, Prince; A812 - Fauntleroy, Gary; A817 - Cade, Khalilah; B1012 - Morris, Amber; B3009 - Im, Justin; B923 - Bond, Richard

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23421, 6330 Market Street, Upper Darby, PA 19082, (484) 273-0258
March 27, 2019 Time: 11:00 AM

A011 - Hudson, Daniel; A073 - Towles, Barbara; A124 - Boyd, Tracy; A127 - Stewart, Warren; A178 - Tate, Ab Del; B223 - Luckey, Gary; B239 - Jackson, Perry; B320 - Brown, Twayne; B380 - Mccrae, Michele; B410 - Hayles, Huppert; B417 - Daniels, Rakiera; B461 - Griffin, Emmanuel; B474 - Turner, Rodney; B491 - Miller, Frank; B547 - Clark, Razona; B571 - Melchor, Rasheedah; C617 - Petty, Carey; C652 - Neal, Tyree; C657 - Walker, Barry; C671 - Eaddy, Renee; C699 - Singletary, Denise; C728 - Mason, Michael; C740 - McLean, Kellie; C751 - Still, Charliclea; C758 - Cooper, Khalf; C764 - Oliver, Rexford; C857 - GLANN, JONATHAN; C921 - Tilley, Stephanie; C930 - Banks, Andrea

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08128, 7000 Lindbergh Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19153, (215) 309-8051
March 27, 2019 Time: 01:00 PM

0009 - IMANI ARTS, INC Dreher, Kevin; 0033 - CLEMENTS, JEROME; 0242 - Ruffin, Dakesha; 0248 - Lee, WanTina; 0261 - Cain, Jessie; 0269 - Garner, Chanell; 0308 - Graves, Leroan; 0368 - Frasier, Jerry; 0371 - Cuttino, Michelle A.; 0426 - Shaw, Keisha; 0472 - Linder Jr, Robert; 0477 - BURRELL, ANGELA; 0487 - DANIELS, LORETTA; 0534 - Trusty, Lorma; 0539 - JAMES, CHARLES; 0542 - Brinkley, Michael; 0567 - Gibson, Lynda; 0581 - Francis, Clifford; 0590 - Thomas, Heaven; 0629 - Robinson, Jeffery; 0672 - Walker, Kendra; 0686 - Araba, Adekemi; 0688 - Holdclaw Jr, Donta; 0695 - Gaeta, Joe; 0816 - Sewell, James; 0819 - Williams, Hiram; 0954 - Martin, LEVERNE; 9018 - Brown, Charles

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08130, 592 Swedesford Road, Berwyn, PA 19312, (484) 626-0120
March 28, 2019 Time: 10:00 AM

1014 - Dominguez, Angel

PUBLIC STORAGE # 29204, 2112 W. Main Street, Norristown, PA 19403, (484) 290-0217
March 28, 2019 Time: 10:30 AM

1097 - Johnson, Brandee; 1134 - Ledebur, Alexandra; 1173 - Davis, Cassandra; 3095 - Brown, Kenneth; 3105 - Goins, Jason; 3140 - Hill, Alaina; 3148 - Makovetz, Matt; D1034 - Mcbee, Desiree

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23102, 2025 Chemical Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462, (484) 408-0906
March 28, 2019 Time: 11:00 AM

C084 - Blackwell, LaKisha; D154 - Oxley, James; D187 - Latif, Larry; E202 - Sorkin, Scott; E207 - Reynolds, Donald; E214 - Gersbach, Leah; F451 - Collins, John; F457 - Coffey, Laura

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C025 - Mistalski, Barbara; C027 - Swartley, Lee; C028 - ALBERTS, GUY; C074 - Murphy, Joseph; C095 - Ahmed, Asif; C126 - Clark, Kevin; D012 - KONDAUR CAPITAL Williams, Marshall; D101 - Franczyk, Chester; D229 - Dobbins, Chelsea; E099 - Bond, Steve; E151 - Skoczen, Franis; E204 - Karikari, John

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Nova downs Providence in Big East quarters

Eric Paschall scored 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as top-seeded Villanova defeated Providence 73-62 in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament Thursday at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

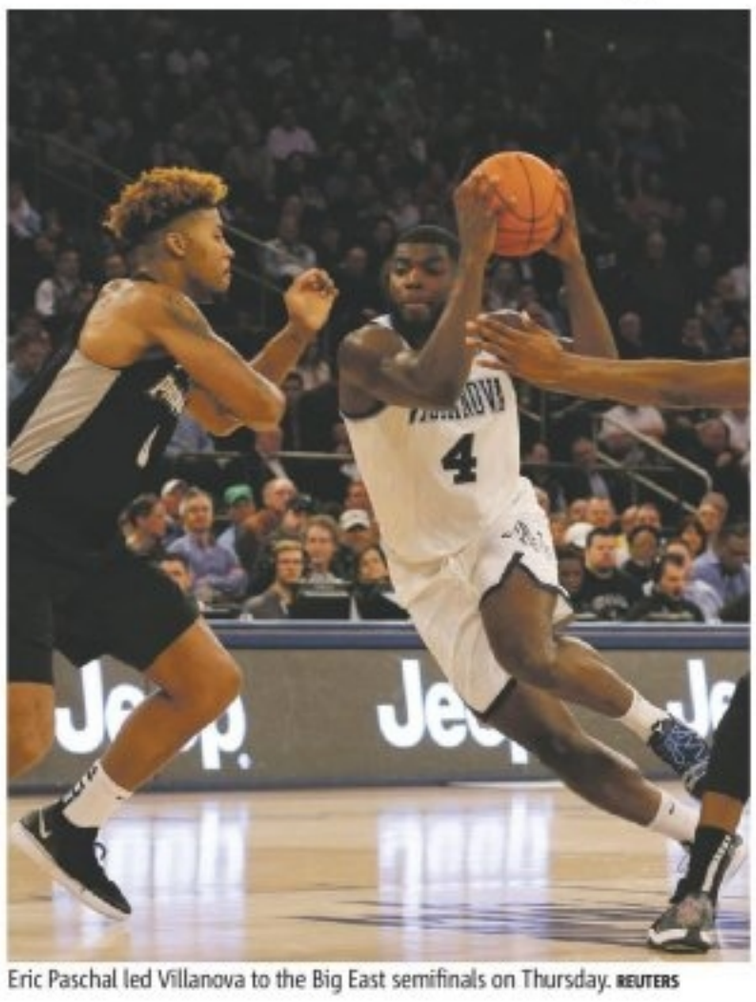
Collin Gillespie added 19 points and Phil Booth had 13 for the No. 25-ranked Wildcats, who will face either fourth-seeded Xavier or fifth-seeded Creighton in the semifinals Friday.

Villanova (23-9) won all three games against Providence this season.

Nate Watson led the eighth-seeded Friars (18-15) with 15 points while Alpha Diallo and Isaiah Jackson added 14 each.

Though Villanova struggled early with its shooting, it managed 10 offensive rebounds and held a seven-point lead at halftime.

Providence continued to battle and David Duke scored in the lane with 14:37 remaining to close within 36-32. Villanova scored the next four points to go back ahead 40-32.



Eric Paschal led Villanova to the Big East semifinals on Thursday. REUTERS

Gillespie's driving layup gave the Wildcats a 42-36 lead with 11:29 remaining.

Jackson responded with five straight points to bring Providence within one point, and Diallo later converted a three-point play to tie the game at 44.

Gillespie made a trey and Dhamir Cosby-Roundtree hit a pair of free throws as the Wildcats regained the lead at 49-44 with 8:08 left. Gillespie's fifth 3-pointer of the game put Villanova ahead 57-48 with 5:27 remaining.

Providence closed within 63-58, but the Wildcats were able to pull away down the stretch.

Providence took an early 9-2 lead as Villanova missed six of its first seven shots.

The Wildcats — who have won the conference tournament in each of the past two seasons — scored the next seven points. Gillespie tied the game at 9 on a 3-pointer with 12:21 left in the first half.

Paschall then converted a three-point play and Booth knocked down a trey to cap a 13-0 run for a 15-9 advantage.

Watson played a stellar all-around half for the Friars and kept them within 31-24 at the break. Watson scored nine points on 4-of-6 shooting. Diallo, meanwhile, was in foul trouble and scored only three points in the opening half. FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

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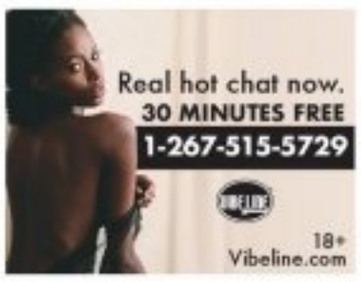

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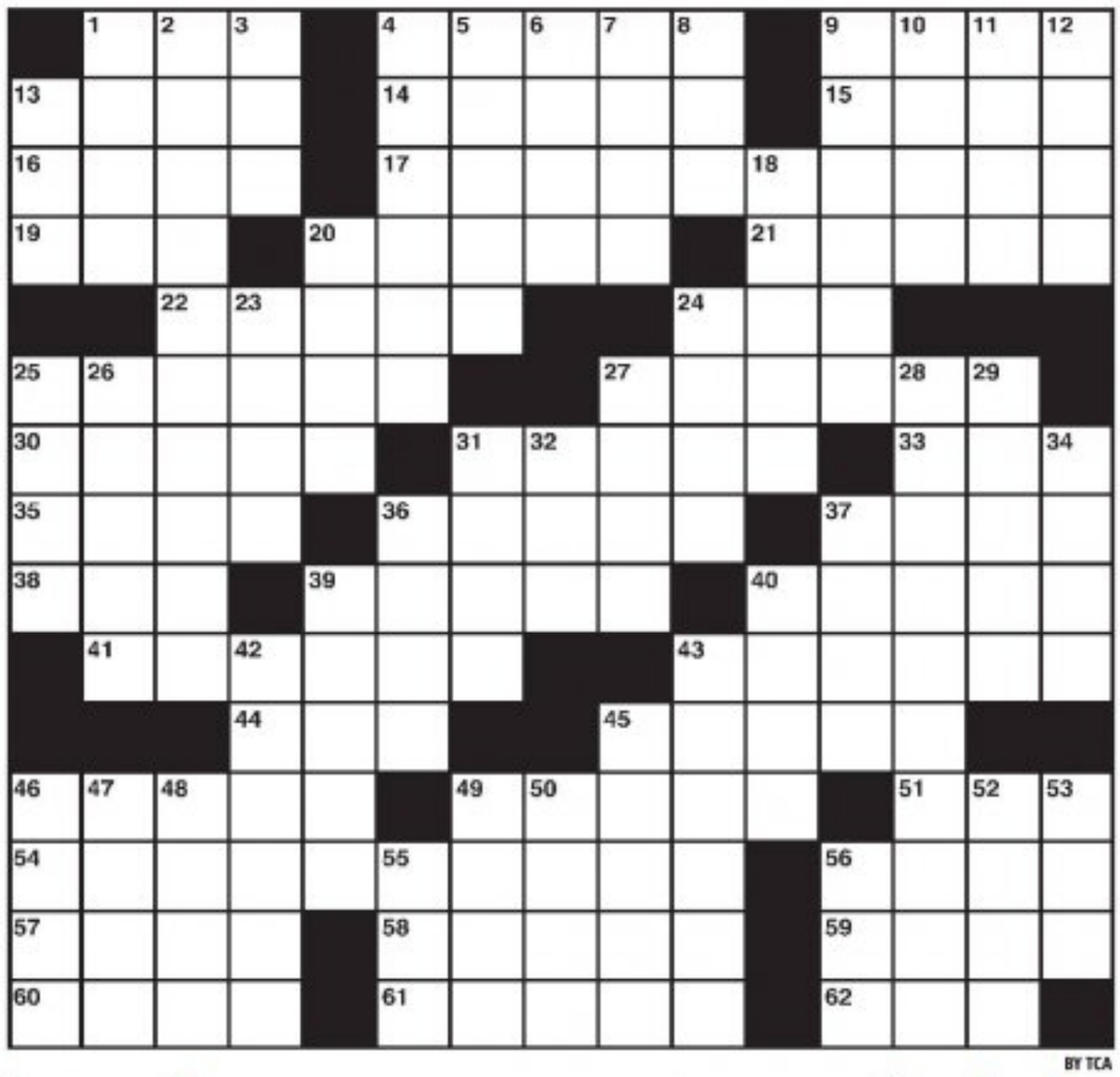

BY TCA

ACROSS

1 "I __ your pardon?"
4 Water vapor
9 Prefix for enemy or bishop
13 Skirt style
14 Refrain syllables
15 Mah-jongg piece
16 Cemetery division
17 Deferential; courteous
19 Feminine pronoun
20 Counts calories
21 Despised
22 Combine; mix
24 One of the Seven Dwarfs
25 Winter Olympics sport
27 Hoopster's goal
30 Nervous
31 Illegal payoff
33 As likely as __; probably
35 Orderly
36 Assumed name
37 Celebrity
38 Lion's home
39 Taters
40 Use profane language
41 Not as fresh
43 Remove text
44 To the __; fully
45 Sri __
46 Frequently
49 Money for college
51 Sunbathe
54 Sin
56 Exhale with relief
57 Socially inept fellow
58 Hora or hula
59 Part of the foot
60 Candy store chain
61 Firstborn of two
62 Suffix for giant or govern

DOWN

1 Actor Christian
2 Way too pricey
3 "__ Along, Little Dogies"
4 Kite maker's need
5 Covered with pines
6 Vane direction
7 European range
8 Name with Fannie or Ginnie
9 Assault
10 Fissure; split
11 Helpful hint
12 __ on to; kept
13 Speedometer letters
18 Picked
20 Declare untrue
23 Shopper's paper
24 Brylcreem amounts
25 Beach surface
26 Leg parts
27 Unfair slant
28 Pleas
29 BLT bread
31 Make hazy
32 Get __ of; eliminate
34 Hemlock or hazel
36 Pinnacle
37 Pout
39 Street talk
40 U.S. coin
42 Reforms oneself
43 Risk
45 Steel-tipped spear
46 Possesses
47 On the house
48 __ off; left suddenly
49 Objective
50 Orange peel
52 Grows gray
53 Org. for Penguins & Ducks
55 Ike's initials
56 That girl

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W	Y	F	S	M	A	R	L	O	N
O	N	R	E	I	R	E	O	V	G
H	N	A	L	P	A	C	I	N	O
J	O	N	V	H	C	G	E	T	D
U	S	C	C	O	O	A	I	B	F
E	E	I	G	D	P	V	A	O	A
Q	M	S	A	N	P	J	R	N	T
F	A	T	H	A	O	D	U	X	H
G	J	C	O	R	L	E	O	N	E
D	J	C	I	B	A	N	G	U	R

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Brando
Caan
Coppola
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	3			5		7	1	
			7	2	1			
	2	1		8			5	
		8			2	9	7	
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